

Spring 2015
Children's Vegetable Garden Program
April 18, 2015

Agenda 9: Gardening Session #9 for spring 2015

Instructors: *Please review with **all** children together.*

Friendly Reminders for Children, Parents and Volunteers:

- ❖ The Garden is looking real nice!!! Everyone's hard work is paying off as seen by the vibrant growth and beauty of the entire garden.
- ❖ Today's Junior Master Gardener Activity (JMG) will be conducted by Nadezhda Garza on 'Nutrition in the Garden'. Remember that you also have a Take-Home Assignment today on 'Home Food Safety': Checklist and Stickers.
- ❖ Is everyone liking us on Facebook and following the Bexar Youth gardens blog for updates on the Children's Vegetable Garden Program (CVGP) and more?
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bexar-County-Youth-Gardens-Program/1447247425548890>
<https://bexaryouthgardens.wordpress.com/>
- ❖ We are starting to compost **behind the brown-fenced area**. Dump any green material to the side of the compost pile facing the gate as designated by the pylon marker. Everyone can and should start bringing coffee, tea grounds and approved 'Green Materials' at this time to dump in the allocated location. It's better than the landfill!
- ❖ *Please: don't return any dirty tools to the tool shed. It is everyone's responsibility to keep that area clean!*

Pre-plant Chores this Morning

- ❖ Pick up debris (weeds, rocks or trash) in-and-around your section and walkways. Throw material away in assigned trash cans. **After all these rains, some of the Sections are starting to get a lot of weeds in and around their plots and section walkways. Please stay on top of weeds as soon as they appear.**
- ❖ Keep an 'eagle eye' out on any roly-polys/sow bugs moving in and around your Section and Plot. Dispose of these pests by crushing them. If not, they will eat leaves off your plants.
- ❖ Notify your Instructor if you see any fire ant mounds so he/she can flag them immediately.

Let's check on our plantings

□ 'Tycoon' and 'BHN 968' Tomatoes:

- Without breaking any branches, carefully tuck all the tomato branches back into their cage. If this isn't possible, then you might need to tie the plant stem to its cage.
- Without pulling hard on your tomato plants, pinch or cut off **ALL leaves and stems** that are in contact with the soil by removing the entire stem or at least half-way to the plant's main trunk. **This will minimize soil splashing up on the foliage and help reduce disease potential.**
- Are all your Fiesta streamers firmly and properly attached to their tomato cages?
- Fertilize both plants at the very end of the day with some of John's Recipe fertilizer. Mix half a small bottle with one gallon of water. This will fertilize one plot.

□ Irish potatoes 'Red La Soda' and 'White Kennebec':

- Make sure to remove any weeds, debris and rocks **as well as any yellow leaves** on your plants. Also destroy any roly-polies in this planting area.
- If you followed the initial planting instructions correctly, you should have a fairly large pile of garden soil in the middle of your Irish potato planting. Scratch off about two or three inches of this soil to "dirt up" the backside stems of your Irish potatoes; no more than three or four inches up the stems above the soil line.
- If you need compost to do this step and for the front "dirting" of your Irish potatoes, proceed to the area behind the brown fence to bring up what you need.
- **Note: This step may require the help of two people. One person to place the garden soil and the other to lift the lower stems of the plants. We DO NOT want to break any of the plants' stems, so be gentle.**

□ White and yellow Onion plantlets:

- How do ALL your plants look? Remove any yellow leaves by carefully cutting them.
- Start harvesting today, 3 to 5 of the largest 'Green onions/shallots' closest to your cucumber trellis. These onions will be wonderful with tonight's salad or grilled for tomorrow's Bar-B-Q.

□ 'Cheers' Head Cabbage, 'Green Magic' Broccoli and 'Toscano' Kale:

- ***Check the backside of the leaves ON ALL these plants for any cabbage looper caterpillars or their eggs and manually crush them.***
- Consider harvesting some kale leaves at the end of the day and some of the very small tender broccoli leaves as well. Coarsely chop these with some onion and lightly sautee with olive oil to make up some nice tasting greens for supper tonight.
- Drench all the plants at the end of the day with liquid 'Javelin' Bt diluted at 2 oz. /gallon of water.

□ Anise Hyssop/Licorice Mint:

- How does your plant look? Is it blooming yet? You can pinch back a few stems and add the leaves to tonight's salad.

□ **‘Provider’ Bush Green Beans:**

- ALL your beans should be up by now with nice, healthy leaves on them. If they aren’t up or if they look unhealthy, today is the last day to reseed them. Instructor’s please turn in all remaining seeds to Miss Mary.

□ **‘White Stream’ Lobularia:**

- How do your plants look? Remember this part of the plot needs to be thoroughly hand watered in today.
- Fertilize these plants at the very end of the day with some of John’s Recipe fertilizer. Mix half a small bottle with one gallon of water. This will fertilize two plots.
- Make sure your plants are helped off the ground if the water or fertilizer pushed their stems to the soil.

□ **‘Little Ruby’ Alternanthera:**

- How do your plants look? Remember this part of the plot needs to be thoroughly hand watered in today.
- Fertilize these plants at the very end of the day with some of John’s Recipe fertilizer. Mix half a small bottle with one gallon of water. This will fertilize two plots.

□ **Violet carpet petunias:**

- How do your plants look? Are they blooming yet? Any yellow leaves should be gently removed.
- Fertilize these plants at the very end of the day with some of John’s Recipe fertilizer. Mix half a small bottle with one gallon of water. This will fertilize three plots.

□ **Yellow squash seeds:**

- All three seeds should be up by now with nice and healthy leaves on them. If not, today is the last day to reseed them. Instructor’s please turn in all remaining seeds to Miss Mary.

□ **‘Diva’ cucumber:**

How does your plant look? Is it nice and straight? Have the tendrils attached to the trellis yet? Do any plants need to be replaced? Make sure that the bamboo support stake is *in front of the plant*, directing the plant toward the trellis. **Do not** put the bamboo support stake *behind the plant*.

Water Management

Spot watering with water cans is needed, if your irrigation isn’t completely reaching all areas and deep watering in your entire plot.

- Be very observant of how your plot and section drain. A grubbing hole or a rod may be needed if water is puddling in your plot. **Walkways may need some trenching and removal of excess soil and mulch to move the water out of your plot (Section 4, please check plots 24-27).**

- Become familiar with the irrigation system. There are many irrigation lines that are clogged up. Your Instructor will show you how to unclog them with a paperclip. Without getting anyone wet, water your planting area with low pressure for about 10-15 minutes.
- Take care to not flood plots or walk-ways. If the plots start flooding, let them drain a little, then proceed with watering.

Special Projects for Garden

Everyone needs to participate.

This is everyone's garden.

□ Before leaving today, please check with Miss Mary and Miss Anne Marie for your Section assignments.

□ Are you completely finished? Make sure your Instructor or Garden Mentor walked your plot and section, everything looks neat and clean (no weeds, trash, rocks, etc.), all plants are watered and all your tools are cleaned and placed neatly in the tool shed.

□ Homework Assignment:

Who was George Washington Carver and what were some of his great Agriculture contributions?

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington_Carver

Who was Luther Burbank and what were some of his great Agriculture contributions?

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luther_Burbank

□ Remember, your ending time at the Children's Vegetable Garden is 12 noon. Even though you have attended the Junior Master Gardener Activity, you are still expected to complete your *Daily Agenda* assignments prior to your departure.

Thanks Everyone! It's going to be a great spring.

David Rodriguez

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service

dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu

<http://agrilife.org/about/>